

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 16, 18-21, and 23-33 were pending in the current application. In this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 20, 24, and 26, and canceled claims 6, 18, 19, and 31-33. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 16, 20, 21, and 23-30 will be pending upon entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action mailed December 29, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 7, 10, 23, 26, 27-30, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 16, 18, 21, 24-26, 28, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over, Dill et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,935,026).

The Examiner also indicated that claims 31 and 32 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants acknowledge with thanks this indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 31, and have canceled claim 31. Applicants have also amended claim 20 to include all of the limitations of claim 32, and have canceled claim 32. Consistent with these amendments, Applicants have also amended claim 26 to recite all of the limitations of claim 33 (which are similar to those of claims 31 and 32), and have canceled claim 33. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended claims 1, 20, and 26 are in condition for allowance.

Regarding the § 112 rejections, Applicants have amended claims 3, 7, 10, and 26 to address the Examiner's identification of indefinite recitations. Specifically, instead of reciting a "specified sidewall height," amended claims 3, 7, and 10 now recite that the heights of the frame do not exceed specific dimensions, such as approximately 2 inches or approximately 1.8 inches. Applicants have also amended claims 4, 11, and 24 to be consistent with this language. Similarly, Applicants have amended claim 26 to recite specific dimensions instead of dimensions "specified by a set of rules of lacrosse." Support for these recitations can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0038].

Regarding the rejections of claim 23 and 27 under § 112, Applicants respectfully submit that the recitation of protruding "toward the interior area" is clear. The interior area of the lacrosse head is defined by the stop member, the sidewalls, and the transverse wall. As such, a protrusion on the top edge of a sidewall can protrude from the top edge in a direction toward the interior area, in a direction away from the interior area, or in a direction in between. Support for this feature can be found in the specification at, for example, paragraph [0036], which describes tooth 202a of Figure 2C, shown protruding toward the interior of lacrosse head 200. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 23 and 27 comply with § 112.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 7, 10, 23, 26-30, and 33 comply with § 112. Applicants also respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 16, 21, 23-25, and 27-30 are allowable due at least to their dependence on amended independent claims 1, 20, and 26.

Serial No.: 10/609,480
Art Unit: 3711

Attorney's Docket No.: STX-015
Page 10

In view of the foregoing, all of the pending claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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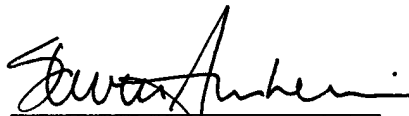
Date: January 18, 2005

SPA:kmh

Respectfully submitted,

GAIT ET AL.

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